

As to all other wounds, not fatal in their nature, they resulted as favourably as in other climates. My own conviction is that not one case out of twenty proved fatal when there was no further injury than amputation of the arm. There was not a fatal case under my attention or observation.

If all the surgeons who accompanied the army on the march were to give in their experience, the practical deductions would be, most probably, that, while certain most formidable injuries of the thigh, or particularly of the hip or knee, make the case *hopeless* without amputation, yet that in most cases, the patient would stand as good a chance of recovery with his leg as without it; and that therefore we adopt the better policy by attempting to save, at once, his life and his limb.

U. S. NAVAL HOSPITAL, near Norfolk, Va., Nov. 1848.

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ART. XVI.—*A Case of Intussusception*. Communicated by WILMER WORTHINGTON, M. D., of Westchester, Penn.

THE following case presents a feature so unusual, that I have thought its publication might be acceptable to the profession. Should you be of this opinion, you will please give it a place in your valuable Journal.

A male child aged three years and four months, of rather delicate constitution, was passed over by a horse in the street, near two years ago, and very much contused upon the back, and in the left iliac region. From that period up to the first of November last, he had frequently complained of pain in the abdomen in the immediate vicinity of the injury, when the pain became greatly aggravated, accompanied with occasional vomitings. For these symptoms the mother had administered large doses of laudanum, without any apparent benefit. Some time in the latter part of December or the beginning of January my attention was called to the child. Supposing worms to be the principal cause of his sufferings, I directed medicines for their removal, and these were varied according to circumstances, without any material change in the symptoms, or relief to the little sufferer. About six weeks previous to his death, a diarrhœa came on with discharges of bloody mucus. The pain was still severe in the same region as formerly, and great tenesmus accompanied his efforts to evacuate the bowels. Two large lumbricoid worms were now passed, one of which was coiled into a knot. These were the only worms which made their appearance during his illness. Prolapsus ani took place about this time, which was mentioned to me by the mother: but having directed her to replace it immediately after each evacuation, I never saw it in a prolapsed state. The child had greatly emaciated, and its sufferings were intense. I placed it upon the

use of hyd. sub. mur. and opium, which I continued for some time, and finally exchanged them for a solution of sulph. morph., which was continued *pro re natâ* to the time of the child's death, which took place on the tenth of July. The warm bath, fomentations, with a variety of other treatment had been used without benefit.

Twenty-six hours after death I made a post-mortem examination. The omentum majus was found diseased, the result of inflammation. The stomach, duodenum, jejunum, and part of the ileum were but little affected; a slight shade here and there of inflammation appeared. The lower part of the ileum, cæcum, colon, and rectum, were inflamed, particularly the cæcum and colon; the former approaching a state of gangrene. The cæcum was inverted into the colon, passing through its whole length and lodging in the rectum near the anus; carrying with it the lower part of the ileum, and a large portion of the inverted colon. The cæcum, all the colon except about ten or twelve inches of its lower part, and a considerable part of the ileum, had passed into the lower portion of the colon and the rectum, making altogether more than two feet of inverted bowel.

The liver, spleen, pancreas, kidneys, and bladder, were all healthy. The stomach and bowels were entirely empty. No worms were found. No food had been taken for about two weeks.

From the appearances which this examination presented, I came to the conclusion, that the cæcum must have passed through the sphincter of the anus during the child's efforts to evacuate the bowels. With a view to ascertain this fact, I have since inquired of the mother what appearances the prolapsus presented, and from the description given, I have no doubt of the correctness of this opinion. Indeed, from the position of the parts as revealed upon dissection, I cannot conceive how it could be otherwise. The women who officiated after its death, replaced the protruding bowel, and they corroborate the mother in their statement of its unusual appearance.

*July 18th, 1848.*

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